

REMARKS

Claims 27-38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants reserve the right to pursue these and other similar claims in future applications. Claim 7 has been amended to fix a typographical error, and claims 39-40 have been added. Claims 1-26 and 39-40 are now pending in the present application.

Office Action of December 6, 2005

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action of December 6, 2005, in which the examiner made a restriction requirement and divided the pending claims into three groups: Group I directed to embodiments of FIGs. 2 and 6, Group II directed to embodiments of FIG. 3, and Group III directed to embodiments of FIG. 1. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Restriction Requirement and traverse the same for the following reasons.

FIGs. 2 and 6 illustrate FLASH EEPROM memory cells and FIG. 3 illustrates a memory string formed by these memory cells. FIG. 1 illustrates the memory array using the same memory cells. Applicants submit that all three figures incorporate the same inventive concept and they should be considered as different embodiments of the same invention.

Notwithstanding the above traversal, Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 1-26, which relates to FIGs. 2 and 6, to be prosecuted with this application.

Amendment to Claim 7

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error included in the original filing.

New Claims 39-40

Claims 39-40 are similar to claim 21. They do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the specification.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the restriction requirement be withdrawn. If necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (404-815-3383) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

No additional fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, including any necessary extensions of time, which are hereby requested to Deposit Account No. 03-0683.

Respectfully submitted,
Yu et al.
By their Representatives,

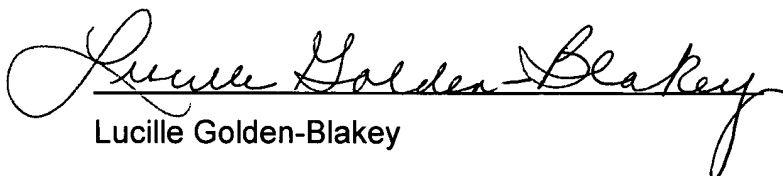
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Date 12/13/05

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 19th day of December, 2005.



Lucille Golden-Blakey